

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A backlight unit, comprising:  
a linear light source for generating a light source  
light;  
a light guide plate including an end side and a broad side: and  
a light amount reducing member for reducing the amount of the light source  
light, capable of transmitting light and made of a material having a greater  
attenuation coefficient than that of the light guide plate,  
wherein the light source light is input to the end side, is propagated  
through the light guide plate, and is output through the broad side, and  
the light amount reducing member is provided at a joint portion of the  
end side and the broad side and portions neighboring the joint portion of the  
light guide plate.

2. (Previously presented) The backlight unit according to claim 1,  
wherein the light amount reducing member is in the shape of an "L" extending  
from the end side to the broad side.

3. (Previously presented) The backlight unit according to claim 1, wherein  
the light amount reducing member is made of a conductive material.

4. (Previously presented) The backlight unit according to claim 1, wherein the light amount reducing member is connected to a ground.

5. (Previously presented) A liquid crystal display apparatus, comprising:  
a backlight unit, including:  
a linear light source for generating a light source light;  
a light guide plate comprising an end side and a broad side: and  
a light amount reducing member for reducing the amount of the light source light, capable of transmitting light and made of a material having a greater attenuation coefficient than that of the light guide plate,  
wherein the light source light is input to the end side, is propagated through the light guide plate, and is output through the broad side, and  
the light amount reducing member is provided at a joint portion of the end side and the broad side and portions neighboring the joint portion of the light guide plate: and  
a liquid crystal panel provided on the broad side of the back light unit, capable of performing liquid crystal display using the light source light of the back light unit.

6. (New) A backlight unit, comprising:  
a linear light source for generating source light;

a light guide plate for receiving and transmitting said source light; and  
a light amount reducing member capable of transmitting light and made of a material having a greater attenuation coefficient than that of the light guide plate for attenuating the source light,

wherein the source light is propagated through the light guide plate, and  
the light amount reducing member is provided on a selected portion of said light guide plate to reduce the source light passing through only a selected portion of the plate.

7. (New) A backlight unit as in claim 6, wherein said light guide plate includes an end side and a broad side, said source light is input to the end side and is output through the broad side, and said light amount reducing member is provided at a joint portion of the end side and the broad side and portions neighboring the joint portion of the light guide plate.

8. (New) The backlight unit according to claim 7, wherein the light amount reducing member is in the shape of an "L" extending from the end side to the broad side.

9. (New) The backlight unit according to claim 6, wherein the light amount reducing member is made of a conductive material.

10. (New) The backlight unit according to claim 6, wherein the light amount reducing member is connected to a ground.

11. (New) The backlight unit of claim 6, further including a display panel, wherein light propagated through said light guide plate is provided to said display panel, and said light amount reducing member is provided on a selected portion of said light guide plate to reduce the source light provided to only a selected portion of the display panel.

12. (New) The backlight unit of claim 7, further including a display panel, wherein light propagated through said light guide plate is provided to said display panel, and said light amount reducing member is provided on a selected portion of said light guide plate to reduce the source light provided to only a selected portion of the display panel.

13. (New) The backlight unit of claim 12, wherein said display panel is a liquid crystal display panel.

14. (New) The backlight unit of claim 13, wherein said light amount reducing member prevents undesired bright areas in said display panel.